

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2903 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Date: March 2, 2023

Measure Description:

Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Fish and Wildlife Commission and Department of State Lands to implement Ocean Policy Advisory Council recommendations to develop adaptive management and social monitoring program to support marine reserves.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of State Lands, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2903 - A directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of State Lands (DSL) to implement the October 25, 2022 recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council to develop an adaptive management plan for marine reserves that includes:

- Objectives for ecological and socioeconomic monitoring and research
- Indicators of social impacts
- Long-term ecological sampling protocols
- Assessment of the capacity for the marine reserves to enhance ecological resilience to environmental disturbances, including data collection and evaluation
- Goals and assessments for outreach and engagement

The agencies are also directed to develop a collaborative process through which social monitoring data on the reserves can be interpreted to affect policy decisions. ODFW is directed, as part of their marine reserves work plan, to sustain engagement with communities, including commercial and recreational fishing fleets, to ensure that marine reserve science is useful, and that community and fishermen knowledge is incorporated into ongoing research and monitoring efforts. The measure appropriates \$800,000 General Fund to ODFW to implement the Ocean Policy Advisory Council recommendations. The measure takes effect January 1, 2024.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) anticipates a fiscal impact totaling \$674,591 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium and \$799,454 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. This estimate includes:

- One full-time permanent Economist 3 position (0.75 FTE in 2023-25, 1.00 FTE in 2025-27) to evaluate the economic impacts of the marine reserves on fishing and co.
- One full-time permanent Natural Resources Specialist 3 position (0.75 FTE in 2023-25, 1.00 FTE in 2025-27) to collect data and apply research to nearshore management issues such as stock assessments, ocean acidification, and hypoxia.
- \$300,000 for contractors to perform research, field work, outreach, and community engagement, including contracts with fishing vessels to be used as research platforms.
- \$45,000 for position-related Services and Supplies.

ODFW notes that \$800,000 biennially is the minimum amount the agency has determined is required to address the adaptive management plan and social monitoring data work directed under this measure. However, the agency could expand existing research or address additional research areas if additional staffing or funds for contracted services are provided- for example, to perform annual ecological sampling at every reserve instead of just tracking large scale changes; contracting to track social impacts across additional stakeholder groups and to provide additional data on the social impacts to fishing and coastal communities; increases to other survey and monitoring capacity; and expanded community engagement work.

Other agencies

This measure has no fiscal impact for the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and public universities, and minimal fiscal impact for the Department of State Lands.